

**Remarks of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman at the  
Indiana Economic Development Corporation's  
EDGE Awards for Small Businesses  
January 6, 2010**

Welcome everyone to your state house!

It's great to see so many partners in progress here today!

I feel somewhat like a general talking to the infantry, because I consider Indiana's army of small business owners to be our best hope for economic rejuvenation. And I know you are working everyday to create a strong and sustainable economic future for yourselves, your families and our communities. I often say I want to see Indiana's small towns moving forward in lock step with our big cities, and the same is true of businesses, large and small. I want to see small businesses growing and thriving in our state just as much as the big corporations.

It's no secret we're working our way out of some tough economic times. And we need you now more than ever. We need good people like you in every sector of our business community to keep us moving forward. And I know the challenges we're facing will only make you more creative and more innovative – as evidenced by the Edge Awards you are receiving today.

Small businesses employ nearly half of our state's private sector work force. So, ultimately, our economic health will depend on how our small businesses do. If they are growing and adding just one or two jobs a year, increasing revenue just a few thousand dollars at a time, that represents a huge leap forward for Indiana.

It's our goal throughout state government to provide a helping hand to the business community. And I'm very proud of the work our Economic Development Corporation has done over the past few years. And as you know, we don't just work to win big deals – like landing a Honda plant – we work directly with small businesses across the state.

Jeff Heinzman and our Small Business Development Center is a critical part of IEDC's mission to create the best possible business climate in our state.

But we operate under no illusions that state government can work alone or make everything perfect. Government cannot create prosperity, but it can help create the conditions where economic opportunity can flourish – so you can create prosperity.

It takes dedicated men and women, like you, who take risks in order to make a profit, creating jobs along the way, and that makes a difference in the lives of Hoosiers.

I hope that the EDGE you're getting today will help you grow and help Indiana prosper.

Thanks for the hard work you do every day. And now, on with the program